

JOINT MEETING OF  
HEALTH & EDUCATION COMMITTEE  
BUDGET COMMITTEE and SCHOOL BOARD

May 26, 2015

5:30 p.m.

Board of Education

MINUTES:

MEMBERS PRESENT:

Commissioner Carol Cook  
Commissioner Phil Dodd  
Commissioner Will Jordan  
Commissioner David Nipper  
Commissioner Pettus Read  
Commissioner Brad Turner  
Commissioner Rhonda Allen, Chm  
  
Commissioner Charlie Baum  
Commissioner Joe F. Jernigan  
Commissioner Robert Peay  
Commissioner Doug Shafer

OTHERS PRESENT:

Ernest Burgess      Lisa Nolen  
Don Odom              Jeff Sandvig  
Terry Hodge          Joyce Michaels  
Mike Kusch            Wayne Blair  
Jeff Jordan            Coy Young  
Aaron Holladay       Jim Estes  
Richard Zago          Paula Barnes  
James Evans           Lisa Moore  
Jeff Davidson          Bob Bullen  
Mark Tucker           Becky Shelton  
Gary Clardy

Chairman Allen presided and called the joint meeting of the Health & Education Committee, Budget Committee and School Board to order at 5:30 p.m. to include presentation of the 15/16 School Board budget.

MINUTES:

"Commissioner Turner moved, seconded by Commissioner Dodd, to approve the minutes of the last meeting as mailed. This motion passed unanimously by acclamation."

HEALTH DEPARTMENT REPORT:

No report was presented at this time.

COMMUNITY CARE REPORT:

No report was presented at this time.

SPECIAL PROJECTS REPORT:

No report was presented at this time.

SCHOOL BOARD BUDGET REVIEW AND AMENDMENTS:

Superintendent Odom first provided the proposed 2015/16 School Board budget and reviewed two pages of Rutherford County schools highlights and awards for 14/15. Mr. Odom next reviewed a salary study of the top tier positions showing Rutherford County is falling behind in salaries. The system is competitive with starting teacher salaries but is turning into a training ground for other counties. The proposed budget is based on 2.5% student enrollment growth. Rutherford County is the fifth largest system in the State.

Mr. Odom advised challenges this year will be the State technology minimum requirements for online testing, providing the same equity raises and associated fixed costs for certified and classified employees and student enrollment growth increase of 2.5% or approximately 1,036 new students.

The Committee was provided a department summary of the budget request.

Commissioner Turner asked if the system was developing online courses and Mr. Odom advised they had been doing online classes for two years and offered them year round. Commissioner Turner advised online classes do not require new classrooms and provide value as they are required in college and work. Mr. Odom advised

there are issues including some students do not have internet or appropriate equipment.

The budget as presented is \$18,000,000 over the last budget and includes \$6,800,000 in raises, \$3,000,000 in new positions and \$2,000,000 in technology for State testing. Commissioner Baum asked what the rest of the increase was for. Mr. Sandvig advised the biggest increases are in communications, contract with vehicle owners for busses, dues and memberships, legal services, maintenance, subs, Read 180 remediation program, technology supplies, electricity, water, textbooks, Trustee's commission, in-service training and criminal investigation of applicants.

Commissioner Cook asked if textbooks would be online at some point. Mr. Odom advised this runs into problems with providing computers or devices for each child and online is the same cost as buying a book. And if a book is purchased then the online access is provided at no additional cost.

Commissioner W. Jordan advised for the last few years the Commission has gotten good budgets with a lot of information with no fat in the budget. The kids are coming in and the County has to educate them.

Commissioner Cook advised the system needed to catch up with other counties and keep the staff here. Mr. Odom advised a shortage of teachers in certain areas has been seen. At the recent job fair only 250 to 300 attended which is low.

Commissioner Shafer advised the budget as presented did not appear to have much fluff.

"Commissioner Nipper moved, seconded by Commissioner Dodd, to approve the 2015/16 School Board budget as presented and forward the same to the Budget Committee. This motion passed unanimously by roll call vote."

The Committee was next presented the 15/16 Major Capital Projects budget based on .07¢. The Committee was advised chillers are having to be replaced and only the Buchanan sewer issue is left. The Committee was advised there is 7,000,000 square feet under roof in the school system. Mr. Clardy advised a lot of building has been done and new buildings turn into old buildings and the system needs to start addressing issues now. They have been successful in managing what funding they get for repairs and have prioritized projects but are looking at a critical situation in the future if Fund 177 is not increased. Mr. Clardy advised they have concentrated on quality control in the new construction and making sure the system is getting what it pays for particularly in roofs. Commissioner Nipper advised he wanted to commend Mr. Clardy and the maintenance staff as they have done an excellent job in maintaining the schools. Commissioner Cook also commended Mr. Clardy and the School Board on the work done. Mr. Clardy gave credit to the Maintenance Department, inspectors, consultants and computer staff doing cabling.

"Commissioner Nipper moved, seconded by Commissioner Read, to approve the 15/16 Fund 177 Budget for major capital projects as presented and forward the same to the Budget Committee. This motion passed unanimously by roll call vote."

The 2015/16 Cafeteria Fund budget was presented with advice this was not GPS money but Federal money.

"Commissioner Cook moved, seconded by Commissioner Nipper, to approve the Cafeteria Fund budget as presented and forward the same to the Budget Committee. This motion passed unanimously by roll call vote."

The Committee was next presented a proposed building program amendment to finish up the Blackman Middle Annex and Smyrna Primary Addition and move remaining funds to future Rocky Fork Road Middle and projects Elementary Schools. The cleanup portion for each project reallocates already budgeted funds for that project to the appropriate

budget line items. No new funds were involved. Following discussion,

"Commissioner Jordan moved, seconded by Commissioner Turner, to amend the budgeted line items in the Blackman Middle School Annex budget by a total \$1,465,670, to amend the budgeted line items in the Smyrna Primary Addition budget by a total of \$358,140, to amend the \$14,877 remaining in the Blackman Middle School Annex budget to furniture for the next middle school, and to amend the \$41,269 remaining in the Smyrna Primary Addition budget to furniture for the next elementary school as presented. This motion passed unanimously by roll call vote."

Aaron Holladay next advised it may be wise going forward to establish an ongoing technology fund like the Capital Projects account.

Wayne Blair advised he appreciated the collaborative effort with funding the School Board budget.

There appearing to be no further business to come before the Committees, Chairman Allen declared the meeting adjourned at 7:33 p.m.

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RHONDA ALLEN, Chairman